

Cond
A1

a plurality of conformable joining parts integrally formed in the case in conformity with the joining parts of the flat display module, the plurality of joining parts being engaged with the plurality of joining parts in a fit manner.

A2

6. (Amended) A flat display device, comprising:

a flat display module for display images, the flat display module including a plurality of first joining parts; and

a case that houses the flat display module, the case having a plurality of second joining parts integrally formed in the case and engaged with the first joining parts to secure the flat display module to the case, the first joining parts and the second joining parts being configured to enable repeated attachment and detachment of the flat display module relative to the case in the absence of the threaded engagement.

A3

9. (Amended) The flat display device according to claim 6, wherein the case includes a front frame.

10. (Amended) The flat display device according to claim 6, wherein the case includes a rear cover.

12. (Amended) A flat display device, comprising:

R4 a flat display module for displaying images, the flat display module including a plurality of first joining parts; and

a case having a plurality of second joining parts integrally formed in the case and for housing the flat display module, the second joining parts being in frictional engagement with the corresponding first joining parts of the flat display module, enabling repeated attachment and detachment of the flat display module relative to the case.

R5 15. (Amended) The flat display device according to claim 12, wherein the case includes a front frame.

16. (Amended) The flat display device according to claim 12, wherein the case includes a rear cover.

REMARKS

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 9 and 15 stand objected to because of informalities. Although the Office Action initially states 7 and 15, Applicants believe that 9 and 15 was the intention of the Examiner based upon the subsequent explanation that refers to subject matter of 9 and 15, as well as refers to both 9 and 15.

Claims 1-8, 10, 12-14, and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Cho et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,411,501).

Claims 9, 11, 15, and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cho et al. in view of Lee (U.S. Patent No. 6,104,605).

Summary of the Response to the Office Action

Claims 9, 10, 15 and 16 have been amended to correct minor informalities. Claims 1, 6 and 12 have been amended to more clearly define the invention. Accordingly, claims 1-17 are presently pending.

The Claims Do Not Contain Objectionable Subject Matter

Claims 9 and 15 stand objected to because of minor informalities. Claims 9 and 15 have been amended as suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to the claims 9 and 15 be withdrawn.

All Claims Define Allowable Subject Matter under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1-8, 10, 12-14, and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Cho et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,411,501). To the extent that the Examiner may consider this rejection to apply to amended claims 1, 6 and 12, the rejection is traversed as being based upon a reference that neither teaches nor suggests the novel combination of features now clearly recited in amended claims 1, 6 and 12. For example, claims 1, 6 and 12, as amended,

now clearly requires a plurality of conformable joining parts integrally formed in the case.

Cho et al. relates to the computer which comprising a system body, a display module, a display case, and the hinge including a L-shaped hinge frame having first and second surfaces. The hinge frame functions as a bracket. The first surface of the hinge frame coupled with the rear surface of the display module and the second surface coupled with the side wall surface of the display case. Referring to Fig. 7 of the Cho et al. patent, a hinge frame 20 is connected to a hinge mount, and a first surface 21 of the hinge frame has a fixing protrusion 27 where a recess of a display module is connected. A second surface 22 of the hinge frame that is formed perpendicular to the first surface is coupled to the side surface of the back case. That is, the display module is coupled to a system body through the medium of the hinge frame and fixed with a screw. Accordingly, without the a hinge frame screwed to the back case, the display module cannot be mounted in the back case. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that Cho et al. does not teach or suggest a plurality of conformable joining parts integrally formed in the back case.

In contrast, the present invention is characterized by a structure that is integrally formed on the case for affixing the display module directly to the case. For example, in paragraph [0026] of the specification, a conformable joining part (a protrusion part of a hook) is described that is integrally formed on a case. Thus, the present invention does not need an external affixing medium, such as a hinge frame, that is screwed to the case. Accordingly, the coupling between the display panel and the case is accomplished only by inserting the conformable joining parts (the protrusion parts or hooks) into the joining parts (corresponding recess part)

formed at a rear surface of the display module without any additional affixing medium, such as a hinge frame. Because the assembled structure of the present invention uses conformable joining parts integrally formed in the case, a lighter and thinner display device results by not having to include any supporting structure necessary to use a screw for attaching an external affixing medium.

Applicants respectfully submit that Cho et al. does not have or recognize the advantages of conformable joining parts integrally formed in a case. Thus, Applicants respectfully assert that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102 should be withdrawn because Cho et al. does not teach or suggest each feature of claims 1, 6 and 12, as amended. Further, Applicants respectfully assert that dependent claims 2-5, 7-11 and 13-17 are allowable at least because of their dependence on independent claims 1, 6 or 12, and for the additional features that dependent claims 2-5, 7-11 and 13-17 recite.

All Claims Define Allowable Subject Matter Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 9, 11, 15, and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cho et al. in view of Lee (U.S. Patent No. 6,104,605). Applicants respectfully submit that Lee does not cure the above-noted deficiencies of Cho et al. and that none of the applied references, whether taken alone or in combination, teach or suggest each of the novel combination of features, such as conformable joining parts integrally formed in a case. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 should be withdrawn because the combination of Cho et al. and Lee neither teaches nor suggests the novel

combination of features recited in independent claims 1, 6 and 12, as amended. Further, dependent claims 9, 11, 15 and 17 are allowable because of their dependency on the independent claims, as amended, and for the additional features that dependent claims 9, 11, 15 and 17 recite.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached pages are captioned “**Version with markings to show changes made.**”

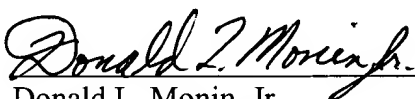
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and the timely allowance of the pending claims. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of the response, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative to expedite prosecution.

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

MORGAN, LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP

By: 
Donald L. Monin, Jr.
Reg. No. 47,256

Dated: February 5, 2003

Customer No.: 009629
MORGAN, LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP
1111 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004
Telephone: 202-739-7000
Facsimile: 202-739-3001

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1, 6, 9, 10, 12, 15 and 16 has been amended as follows:

1. (Amended) A structure for assembling a flat display having a flat display module for displaying images with a case for fitting the flat display module therein, the structure comprising:

a plurality of joining parts formed at a rear surface of the flat display module; and

a plurality of conformable joining parts **integrally** formed in the case in conformity with the joining parts of the flat display module, the plurality of joining parts being engaged with the plurality of joining parts in a fit manner.

6. (Amended) A flat display device, comprising:

a flat display module for display images, the flat display module including a plurality of first joining parts; and

a case that houses the flat display module, the case having a plurality of second joining parts **integrally formed in the case and** engaged with the first ~~[joint]~~ **joining** parts to secure the flat display module to the case, the first joining parts and the second joining parts being configured to enable repeated attachment and detachment of the flat display module relative to the case in the absence of the threaded engagement.

9. (Amended) The flat display device according to claim 6, wherein the case ~~[is]~~ **includes** a front frame.

10. (Amended) The flat display device according to claim 6, wherein the case ~~[is]~~ **includes** a rear cover.

12. (Amended) A flat display device, comprising:
a flat display module for displaying images, the flat display module including a plurality of first joining parts; and

a case having a plurality of second joining parts **integrally formed in the case** and for housing the flat display module, the second joining parts being in frictional engagement with the corresponding first ~~[joint]~~ **joining** parts of the flat display module, enabling repeated attachment and detachment of the flat display module relative to the case.

15. (Amended) The flat display device according to claim 12, wherein the case [~~is~~]
includes a front frame.

16. (Amended) The flat display device according to claim 12, wherein the case [~~is~~]
includes a rear cover.